

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01 /052 W

----- 063614

O R 251445Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO USDAO TEHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

DET 6 2ADG WIESBADEN AB GE

CARMISHMAAG TEHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

USDAO ADDIS ABABA NIACT IMMEDIATE

MAAG ADDIS ABABA NIACT IMMEDIATE

USAS RIYADH

USMTM DHAHRAN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2239

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

OASD/ISA WASHDC

CSAF WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

2AGD LANGLEY AFB VA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 5937

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, ET

SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF F5'S TO ETHIOPIA

REF: A. JIDDA 5729 (NOTAL) 170700Z AUG 75

B. JIDDA 5042 (NOTAL) 141600Z JUL 75

1. MINSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRINCE SAUD AL-FAISAL
CALLED CHARGE AUGUST 24 TO INFORM HIM THAT F-5'S IN
TRANSIT FROM IRAN FOR ETHIOPIA COULD OVERFLY SAUDI ARABIA
BUT MIGHT NOT LAND FOR REFUELING. CHARGE MENTIONED THAT
PERMISSION HAD BEEN OBTAINED VIA SERIES OF MFA NOTES
THAT SPECIFICALLY HAD REQUESTED OVERFLIGHTS AND LANDINGS TO
REFUEL, THAT MOST OF THE FERRY MISSIONS WERE NOW OVER AND
ONLY ONE REMAINED. PRINCE SAID THAT PERHAPS THERE HAD
BEEN A MU UNDERSTANDING AT THE START ABOUT THE LANDING/
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REFUELING APPROVAL. HENCEFORTH REMAINING F-5'S FOR

ETHIOPIA COULD STILL OVERFLY SAUDI ARABIA, BUT ANY REFUELING WOULD HAVE TO BE AERIAL. CHARGE SAID PLANES IN QUESTION DID NOT HAVE THIS CAPABILITY. PRINCE INDICATED HIS GUIDANCE STOOD. IN CLOSING, CHARGE ASKED IF HE COULD BE IN FURTHER TOUCH WITH MINISTRY AFTER STUDYING MATTER FURTHER. PRINCE WAS NON-COMMITTAL.

2. PRINCE WAS IN TAIF AUGUST 25 WHEN DCM CALLED ON DEPFONMIN MAS'UD--WITH WHOM THE FONMIN CONTACTS ON OVERFLIGHTS HAD TAKEN PLACE AFTER RECEIPT OF PRINCE SA'UD'S ORIGINAL APPROVAL (REF B). MAS'UD WAS AWARE OF PROBLEM. HE SAID USG SHOULD CONSIDER RE-ROUTING REMAINING F-5'S TO ETHIOPIA VIA TURKEY, CYPRUS AND EGYPT, OR SOME SIMILAR ROUTE. DCM POINTED OUT THAT ONLY TWO AIRCRAFT REMAINED TO BE TRANSFERRED. HE SAID IF MFA COULD APPROVE THEIR OVERFLIGHTS AND LANDING WE WULD BE GRATEFUL AND WOULD HENCEFORTH KEEP IN MIND PRINCE SA'UD'S GUIDANCE. TO THIS MAS'UD ANSWERED THAT "THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SOME CHANGES" TO CAUSE PRINCE TO ADOPT THE POSITION THAT HE HAD. HE WOULD NOT RE-OPEN MATTER WITH PRINCE SA'UD ON EMBASSY'S BEHALF.

3. CHARGE THEN ASKED IF IT WOULD BE OK FOR AMBASSADOR AKINS TO MENTION MATTER TO PRINCE SA'UD. DEPFONMIN SAID HE HAD NO OBJECTION.

4. WESTERN PROVINCE CIVAVIATION DIRECTOR SADAT TOLD POLCHIEF AUGUST 24 THAT SAG WAS VERY UNHAPPY WITH OVERFLIGHTS. THEY THOUGHT SAG WAS IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION NOW VIS-A-VIS FELLOW MUSLIMS IN ERITREA, AND THAT PLANES COULD HAVE BEEN SHIPPED VIA C-5. SADAT SAID IT WOULD BE HARMFUL TO GOVERNMENT OF SAUDI ARABIA IF PEOPLE FOUND OUT. VISIT OF SOMALI DELEGATION TO JIDDA HEADED BY MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AUGUST 23-24 MAY HAVE ENHANCED SAUDI SENSITIVITIES.

5. ACTION RECOMMENDED: UNTIL AMBASSADOR AKINS CAN SEE PRINCE SA'UD AND TRY TO GET HIS OK TO OVERFLIGHT/LANDING/ REFUELING FOR LAST TWO F-5'S, REMAINING FERRY MISSIONS SHOULD BE SUSPENDED. AMBASSADOR HOPES TO SEE PRINCE EITHER AUG. 25 OR 26.

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AKINS

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